

Re-Evaluating Library Space Usage AFTER a Library Renovation

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Library Renovation
- Creation of the Space Committee
- Data Gathering: Student Surveys and Staff Focus Groups
- Decisions and Implementations
- Outcomes
- Future Directions and Projects

UMass Dartmouth History

Started in 1895 as two textile schools

1960 became the Southeastern Massachusetts Technology Institute

1964 Architect Paul Rudolph created the campus design at present location

1969 became Southeastern Massachusetts University

1991 joined the UMass System

Now:
Doctoral Research University

Student FTE: 8647
Undergrad: 7000



Claire T. Carney Library

- Bradford Durfee College of Technology, Library History, 1948 -1965
- New Bedford Institute of Technology, Library History, 1948 -1964
- Beginnings of the SMTI Library, 1965 -1980
- Library named in honor of UMass Dartmouth alumna, former trustee, and advocate Claire T. Carney, October 14, 2006
- Library renovation begins 2011
- Library opening January 25, 2013



Quad entrance to library



Front Entrance to the Library



Conversion of Outside Area to Current Living Room



Living Room Lobby



Former and Current Circulation desk



**Former Circulation
desk location**



**Now the Art Gallery
and Study room**



Former security desk and copier stations



Group Study Areas



Lounge Area Outside Elevator



Chandelier Lighting



Former Browsing Area



New Classrooms



Privacy Panels





Color Banners





After the Renovation...



2014 Library Study Space Survey

Some recurring themes:

- Wifi not working on upper floors
- Not enough seating
- More quiet space
- 24/7
- More computers needed
- More white boards needed

Creation of the Space Committee

- Started in January 2015 with a representative from each library department
- To address concerns from the library staff and students
- To examine the space usage and determine if the new space really does serve the needs of the patrons

Work of the Space Committee

- Follow-up on student survey
- Create library staff focus groups



Data Gathered from Focus Groups

1. Think of the public areas we have now (Learning Commons, Scholarly Commons, Living Room, Classrooms, Study areas...3rd and 5th floors etc.) in **terms of student/patron** use including things such as equipment, shelving, seating, furniture, display cases/areas for artwork, publicity (print or electronic)

- a. What works well?
- b. What doesn't work?
- c. If money wasn't an issue...how would you like to see it designed? Perfect world scenarios

Data Gathered from Focus Groups

2. Think of the services you provide currently to patrons.
 - a. Does the physical space work or not...why?
 - b. Are there other things limiting your ability to provide the service you want?
 - c. What changes would you make to the service or way you provide it if you could?

Wish List from Focus Groups

Area	Issue to address	Priority Level	Difficulty Level	Cost	Follow-up Actions
Living Room	Need sign with weekly or daily library events...lcd sign at entrances preferable				
	Electronic signs located outside each meeting room fed by R25...needs frequent refresh				
	Messy furniture after events or use. Floorplan for facilities to reset?				
	If we can renovate built in furniture, more flexible seating needed				
	Café needs to be open weekends and summer...could another vendor come in if they won't provide service?				
	Floors get very slippery when wet...new mats? Maintenance of mats? Mat path from door to stairway?				
	Not enough outlets (this is hard to change)				
	Food smells go to Circulation ...not pleasant				



Biggest Challenge





Top Five Projects

- Training Room creation in room 135
- Color printer in LC
- Electronic event signs near entrances
- LC/Ref desk reconfiguration
- Library programming for Living Room



Extended Wish List

- Scholarly Commons reconfiguration
- Security Desk (gate monitor) upgrade (phone or walkie talkie, better desk, safer for student workers)
- Better Facilities coverage of building
- More whiteboards in group areas...maybe use those stored in 314?
- Better signage/directions to help patrons go from Circ to LC desk
- Temperature control of building
- New books moved to Art Alcove
- Make 128 a quiet lab (maybe all the time, maybe during 24/7?)
- Information Services' offices need better visibility
- 225/226 reconfiguration for better visibility of space
- Wifi upgrade on 3rd/5th floors (\$15,000)
- Move Mediascape monitors out of current rooms and put them in public areas.

Summer Subcommittees

Recommendations	High Student Impact?	Cost?	Background	Progress	Need Subcommittee?	Subcommittee Members
Install more whiteboards in group areas	Yes	Low	Students frequently move whiteboards in and out of rooms and sometimes write on glass walls.	Committee has found areas to install boards, checking with Admin. About placement	YES!	Zac, Kathy, Natalie, Karen
Increase usage of group study tables by groups rather than individuals	Yes	Low	Often one person will sit at a table and a group will not be able to use space.	Amy working on getting prices from Justin.	No	Amy



Mediascape



Art Gallery



Wireless



Reference Desk





White Boards



New Group Study Table Tents



StressLess Day



Therapy Pups During StressLess Day



Game Night



Training Room for Small Groups



Why the Space Committee Worked

- Strong participation
- Shared goals and motivations
- Frank discussions
- Insights on renovation decisions from Asst. Dean

Current and Future Projects

- Active shooter workshops followed up by individualized meetings with each department about their space
- Recording session with outgoing assistant dean to preserve institutional memory
- Furniture inventory and eventual creation of a building maintenance plan
- Revisit original list
- 2017 Student Space Usage Survey